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State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Jim Doyle, Governor
Roberta Gassman, Secretary
Bill Clingan, Division Administrator

April 12, 2006

To: Interested Parties

From: Bill Clingan, Administrator 
DWD Division of Workforce Solutions

Re: **2006/2007 Youth Apprenticeship Request for Proposals**

As you may know the Youth Apprenticeship Program was transferred to the Department of Workforce Development in this past year. I am honored to provide this year's Request for Proposal and to administer the program in the Division of Workforce Solutions. Providing the best opportunities for our state's young people, and to the businesses in our communities that share that interest, continues to drive those of us committed to help people succeed in life. Unfortunately, this program, like most others, struggles to maintain adequate funding to meet the needs.

Therefore, while the RFP has not changed substantially for the coming year, I'd like to share with you some of my thoughts about coordination with the variety of efforts in workforce development, economic development and education. I encourage you to consider ways to strengthen your connections to these efforts as you develop plans for your YA program for next year and beyond.

- High quality career information is crucial as young people make life and career choices. Please take a look at new Web resources <http://worknet.wisconsin.gov/worknet/default.aspx> and other career and labor market resources.
- Our workforce programs are working harder to provide opportunities for jobs in high growth and/or high wage fields. The direction in Wisconsin and in federal workforce programs is to be more "demand-driven." To us this means working with job seekers to train for and seek the jobs that are in demand, offer the opportunity for good wages, career advancement, and will hopefully be available in the community in which they live.
- The Council on Workforce Investment (CWI) has recently funded seven Growing Regional Opportunities in Wisconsin (GROW) grants to support regional partnerships. There is an opportunity for more involvement with the K-12 system, especially efforts that connect with businesses such as the YAP. The CWI also has a Special Innovations Project Solicitation open until May 5th. www.wi-cwi.org
- DWD is pleased to be Project Lead the Way partner with DPI and the Kern Foundation for the second year. We believe that the efforts related to STEM and increasing the amount of science, technology, engineering, and math exposure in the K-12 years will be a factor in Wisconsin's future economic success.

Sue Gleason, Director of the Office of Economic Initiatives, the office that houses the YA program in DWS, will be joining you for the YA Spring Coordinators meeting later this month. I encourage you to talk about these issues as you chart the future course for the YA program.

Thank you for the hard work that you all do on behalf of young people in your communities. I look forward to working with you as we continue to develop the relationships between the YA program and other workforce, education, and economic growth efforts that support Wisconsin and all of its regions.